

crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Spring 2014



History IN THE MAKING

Our alumni chronicle
75 years of memories.

Plus...

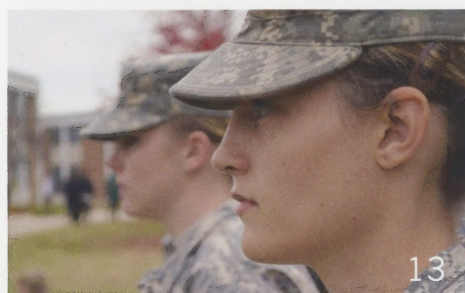
Academic updates

Features

Lion Sports

And more!

crossroads contents



Spring 2014

A UNIQUE FRIENDSHIP

Families of fallen heroes unite to honor those who sacrificed for peace 7-8

TWO ACTORS AND A PASSION

Former instructors set stage for MSSU ... 9-11

Q & A WITH MIKELL HAGER

Civilian tasked to lessen the environmental impact of troops in the field 12

SINGLE FILE

Officer candidate juggles training and parenthood 13-15

SPIRITUAL CALLING

Alumna works to curb scars of abuse 16

THE WEDDING GUY

BSU director helps alumni find their paths to happily ever after 17-18

LION TALES

Alumna turns passion for fashion into swanky boutique 20

HONOR TO THE COACH

Coach Warren Turner joins elite sports legends in Missouri Sports Hall of Fame's latest class 25

FULL COURT PRESS

Alumni and Lion supporters honor Robert Corn's significant influence in Missouri Southern basketball history 26-28

AGAINST THE ODDS

Senior basketball star overcomes obstacles to become a role model 29-30

MOSO MORNINGS

Area businesses enjoy tasty benefits of relationship with Missouri Southern 39

PAY IT FORWARD

Gift helps grads stay connected 40

CAMPUS NEWS

Foundation update 5

International update 6

Lion sports 25-34

Academic updates 35-38

ClassNotes & Memoriam 41-42

on the cover

Brad Belk (center), Missouri Southern Alumni Association board member, orchestrated the publication of *75 Years of Lion Pride: So Much More to the Story*, with the help of many alumni, including (clockwise from left) Lee Elliff Pound, '86; Cameo Harrington, '96; Chris Wiseman, '90; Steve Smith, '77; Chad Stebbins, '82; Kevin McClintock, '93; Gloria Turner, '69 & '71; and Brianna Maxwell, '00. — Cover illustration by Marlee Tegenkamp, '14; photo by Willie Brown, '14.

Greetings,

Missouri Southern State University is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in every endeavor undertaken by the organization. Academic programs, cultural experiences, scholarly publications, athletic competitions and a nearly endless list of other activities are all held to a common standard — excellence. However, the ability to achieve and maintain excellence in our rapidly changing world is becoming more challenging with each passing year.



But before excellence can be mastered, it must first be defined. I prefer a definition provided by former Secretary of Education Terrel Bell in the 1983 publication *A Nation at Risk*.

"We define 'excellence' to mean several related things. At the level of the *individual learner*, it means performing on the boundary of individual ability in ways that test and push back personal limits, in school and in the workplace. Excellence characterizes a *school or college* that sets high expectations and goals for all learners, and then tries in every way possible to help students reach them. Excellence characterizes a *society* that has adopted these policies, for it will then be prepared through the education and skill of its people to respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Our Nation's people and its schools and colleges must be committed to achieving excellence in all these senses."

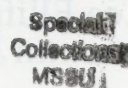
Dr. Bell not only defined the term, he also framed the issues that we all must address as we work together to improve the world for future generations. We simply must insist that excellence ultimately replaces mediocrity at every level of society.

That's the crystal clear focus we enjoy and celebrate at Missouri Southern.

Warm wishes to you and your loved ones,

Alan D. Marble

Alan Marble, '79, Ph.D.
MSSU Interim President



Dear alumni and friends,

My last column talked about making commitments to Missouri Southern in the forms of time, talent and treasure, and our alumni answered with exciting new projects.



To recognize longtime coach and alumnus Robert Corn, '78, a group of alumni raised funds to name the court after Coach Corn and for two scholarships, one athletic and one for a pep band member. Full Court Press set a goal of \$100,000 and was led by co-chairs Keith Adams, '49, and Mike Pound. The committee worked diligently on this project and it is featured on page 26.

Our long-awaited book on the 75-year history of Southern is available and can be purchased for \$28. Board member Brad Belk spent nearly four years organizing the project. Alumni-driven, this book includes the work of six alumni authors with design and marketing by two alums.

Avid MSSU supporters Bill, '85, and Tracy, '79 and '93, Gipson started the new Pay It Forward Program, which provides a single lifetime membership for a December and a May/July grad. And, they invite others to do the same.

We appreciate your support, enthusiasm, connection and involvement. Let's continue to "roar" around the world!

In Lion Pride,

Lee Elliff Pound, '86,
Alumni Director



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

crossroads magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

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crossroads is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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Greetings, alumni and friends!

This issue features a mix of the past and present. How many of us remember the Barn Theater? Annie Clarkson's feature on Milt and Trij Brietzke takes us back to when the couple worked to convert the original dairy barn on campus into a showcase of the arts. It was the late 1980s when I saw my first production in the Barn Theater. I cannot tell you what the play was, but the atmosphere was as awe inspiring as any theater in a larger venue. Most everyone in the Joplin community spoke highly of the theater, which made it even more tragic when fire destroyed it in 1993. It was a great loss to Missouri Southern, but what wonderful memories it made for so many alumni and university friends.

Then, we fast forward to today with two excellent features: one by Natalie Cossey on Shonna Bourne, an officer candidate in the Show-Me Gold program, and the other by Sydney Marsellis on "Slim" Magee, a Lion basketball player. Both stories offer uplifting messages on future alumni and show the power to overcome struggles.

This marks the fifth year I have had the pleasure to produce **crossroads** and coach a staff of talented students who consistently impress. We hope you enjoy these features as well as the other content in this issue.

Warm regards,

Rhonda Clark '00

Rhonda Clark, '00,
crossroads Editor,
Assistant Professor, Communication



Donor continues generous Lion support

The spring semester featured another opportunity to thank one of Missouri Southern's generous donors. Mr. W. Robert Corley made a significant gift to the university's



capital improvement fund, and on February 17, the dental hygiene clinic was dedicated as the W. Robert Corley Dental Hygiene Clinic in his honor.

Mr. Corley didn't graduate from Southern, but he believes in education and he loves this community. And because of that, students at Southern benefit.

Over the years, Mr. Corley has impacted the lives of countless students. He established an endowed scholarship that will help students achieve their education in perpetuity. He has donated to KXMS, the university's radio station, and he supported the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition. He also has donated to the international mission endowment, providing students the opportunity to learn about different cultures both on campus and abroad.

His most recent gift to support capital improvements is important because the facilities at Southern are never static. They are always changing and evolving to meet the needs of the students. Sometimes it's because of changing technology, sometimes it's because we have outgrown our current accommodations, and sometimes it's to provide new opportunities. We

are forever grateful that he has chosen to give a gift that will help meet these needs as they arise. Students across campus will benefit, including those in the dental hygiene program.

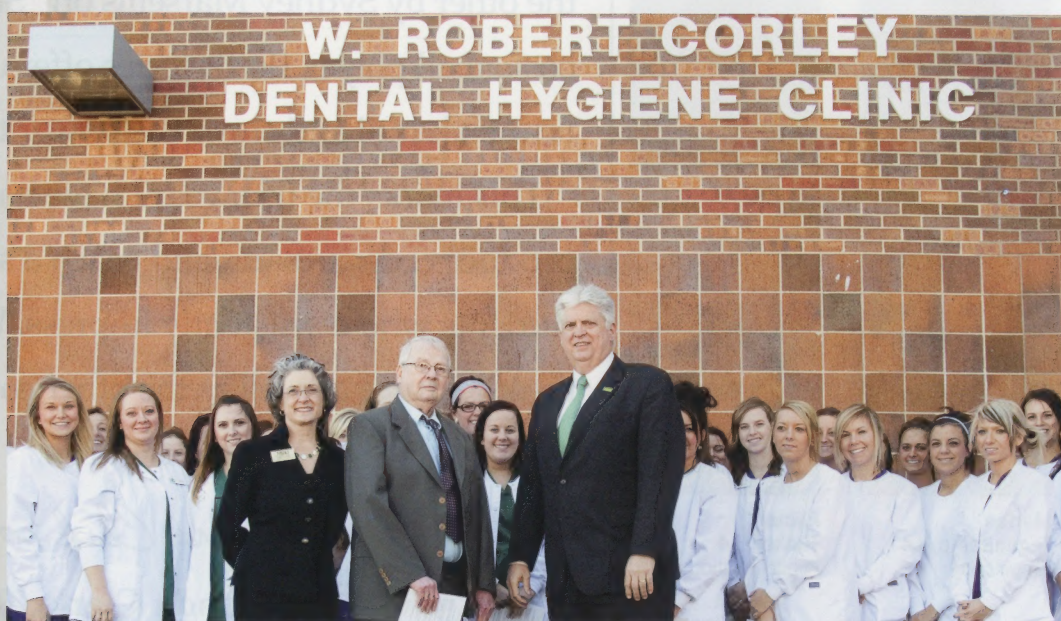
Mr. Corley recently told me, "I didn't graduate from Missouri Southern, but I've become so involved with the university that sometimes I feel like I did. Education is important and Missouri Southern is important to the region, so I want to do my part to support it."

We're honored to say that this is not the first time we have said thank you to Mr. Corley. In 2009, we named the W. Robert Corley Auditorium in Webster Hall thanks to a significant gift he made for scholarships.

Corley, who grew up in Columbus, Kansas, graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in business administration. He moved to Joplin and in 1951 opened the Duds Shop and later the Attic and Accents on South Main Street.

The dental hygiene clinic named in his honor is located in the Health Sciences Building. The clinic not only provides the initial learning environment for dental hygiene care, but real-world experiences by providing preventative oral health care services to patients. Students are supervised by dental hygiene and dental faculty at all times. The clinic offers cleanings, X-rays and other preventative services.

— JoAnn Graffam, '87, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation



W. Robert Corley (center) joins JoAnn Graffam, '87, (left); Interim University President Alan Marble, '79; and students in the Missouri Southern dental hygiene program at the ceremony to dedicate the W. Robert Corley Dental Hygiene Clinic on February 17. — Photo by Curtis Almeter, '13

MoSo athletes continue play abroad

Four Missouri Southern graduates, not wanting their athletic careers to end, are playing their sports internationally. Skyler Bowlin and Keane Thomann are playing basketball for the Horsens Idraets Club in Denmark,



Jasmine Lovejoy is with the Chelsea Gulls basketball team in Australia, and Rachel Olinyk is a member of the FTSV Straubing volleyball team in Germany.

Skyler Bowlin, '13

When Bowlin left MSSU in 2011 as the program's fifth-leading all-time scorer, he was contacted by a coach in Germany and signed a contract with the BG Leitershofen/Stadtbergen Red Kangaroos, a professional team in Augsburg. When that season was over, he joined the Ringwood Hawks of the Australia-State League and was named the Grand Final MVP during his team's league championship run. He has also played with the Wels team in Austria.

During the 2012-13 season for Denmark's Horsens IC, Bowlin played in all 36 games and averaged 19.6 points and 6.5 assists.

"Danish is a very difficult language to learn, but I really try to pick up on things," he said. "I can understand little parts of conversations sometimes. I took German classes my first year in Germany, so I can speak better German than Danish."

Bowlin said in his free time he tries to get as much rest as he can: "I will go downtown and walk around or go to the mall. Other than that, my roommates and I chill around the house and play video games."

Keane Thomann, '13

Thomann left the Lions in 2012 as the program's seventh-leading all-time scorer. He signed with an agent and received a few offers from professional teams in Denmark. After he agreed to a deal with Horsens, he heard the team was looking for a guard and told officials about Bowlin. Thomann averaged 18 points and 7.6 rebounds while playing all 36 games for Horsens in 2012-13.

"We average about 800 people at games," Thomann said. "If we are doing well at the end of the year, it gets up to 2,500. It is difficult to draw fans since basketball is really the third most popular sport behind soccer and handball."

He said learning the language is difficult,

as the Danes make sounds that he cannot replicate correctly. "I do know some polite phrases and a lot of different kinds of food," he said. "But almost everyone speaks fluent English here, and the people are almost too hospitable sometimes."

Thomann said his biggest adjustment was getting used to the fact that nearly everyone in Denmark walks or bicycles everywhere. "It is not unusual to see people in nice clothes riding their bikes around here," he said.

Jasmine Lovejoy, '11

After transferring from Northeast (Nebraska) Community College, Lovejoy led MSSU in scoring during the 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons. A former teammate at Northeast alerted her about the possibility to play professionally in Australia, and she arrived in February 2013 to join the Southern Peninsula Sharks. This season she is playing as the "import" for the Chelsea Gulls; the city is about an hour from Melbourne.

In Australia, the basketball season runs from mid-March to the end of August.

Lovejoy is playing in the Big V Division 2, which she calls "very competitive and physical." The schedule includes 20 regular-season games and four to six playoff games. Attendance ranges between 70 and 300.

"The biggest challenge is being away from family and friends," she said. "Also, the huge time difference (17 hours) makes being able to communicate with people extremely hard."

Lovejoy spends her free time at the gymnasium lifting weights or working on her shot. "I also live down the street from the beach, so I am always there as much as possible," she said.

Rachel Olinyk, '13

Olinyk was an All-MIAA selection in 2010 and 2011. After her collegiate career, she contacted a friend who had played in Europe the year before. The friend recommended a volleyball agency, Bring It Promotions, which arranged a tryout in Slovenia with 27 other players.

"You pay out of your own pocket the cost of the



Rachel Olinyk, '13, prepares to take to the court at a game in Germany, where she plays for the Deutsche Volleyball League. — Submitted photo

Please see Page 34

A unique friendship

War made them enemies, but a quest for peace instilled a lasting relationship

"We are united in remembrance of those that sacrificed so much, so many lost that day, so much tragedy, this memorial is testament to that day and a new hope.

The Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association was founded in 1975 to honor the memory of those men who lost their lives on October 14, 1943.

This joint venture memorial founded by men who were once foes, not by choice, but by circumstances, who joined together as friends, dedicated to make a statement to future generations, that mistakes of the past by all nations must be heeded, if they are to be avoided in the future.

As Hubert Neidhart wrote and I quote 'The Memorial: It is not a glorification of war, not an appeal for hero-worship, but simply a quiet, modest warning, reminding us of a fateful past.'

And in closing, I think it is appropriate to quote from Georg Schaefer's remarks this date in 1998, 'To all these people, regardless of their nationality, this memorial should serve as a sign of goodwill, forgiveness and friendship and be a memento for the generations to come, to work and live towards peace amongst all men.'

With these thoughts we place our wreath here in remembrance of all who were affected that day and our passion to work and live towards peace, to truly be, Friends by Choice."

— Speech read by Robert McCaleb during wreath ceremony on October 14, 2013, at Schweinfurt

The day was October 14, 1943, one that would be remembered as a tragedy during World War II but later become a focus for peace and reconciliation.

Joplin native H. Kenneth McCaleb, '41, was 23 and a navigator on a B-17 plane with a mission to bomb the city of Schweinfurt, Germany. His plane, along with 18 other bombers, took off from Thurleigh Airfield in England and was shot down between Wurzburg and Schweinfurt, Germany. Survivors became prisoners of war. During the raid, the Americans lost 600 men and 60 airplanes. The city of Schweinfurt lost 1,079 people from 1943-45.

McCaleb survived and returned to Joplin and raised a family with his wife, Margaret Baughman McCaleb, '40, but he never forgot the agonies of war and his experience as a prisoner. His hope was that all men could live in peace.

His son Robert McCaleb and his wife, Patti, traveled to Europe for a wreath ceremony on October 14, 2013, at the memorial dedicated in remembrance of American and German victims. It was the 70th anniversary of McCaleb's plane being struck down.

Known as the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association, the memorial was founded in 1975 and in 1998 became a joint venture between two groups that once fought against each other.

The two sides of this dedication were the Allied soldiers and the German Luftwaffenheifer, who were German students drafted into the German army at a young age, some only 15.

The memorial is meant to speak to future generations to prevent similar tragedies from happening again. Robert McCaleb quoted the sculptor of the memorial Hubert Neidhart when he spoke at the wreath ceremony, which honored those who sacrificed and to raise awareness for peace.

Robert and Patti McCaleb also paid tribute to the late H. Kenneth McCaleb at the opening of the Exhibit of Schweinfurt Air War, remembering the reason his parents began the Missouri Southern McCaleb Initiative for Peace, which awards grants to students to report and write on ways to ensure peace in the world. Their work is published in *The Chart*, Missouri Southern's student newspaper, which the elder McCaleb founded in 1939 while a student at Joplin Junior College.

The McCalebs were the only Americans present at the anniversary. During the opening ceremony, Robert spoke of the unique relationship his father had with German Georg Schaefer, with whom he became friends years after the war.

"... The wonderful lesson for today is the story of reconciliation as demonstrated by the Schaefer's and my parents and by the many other Flakhelfer and SSMA members who reconciled, became friends, and dedicated this monument ... their proclamation of 'enemies by chance, friends by choice' should be widely publicized," said Robert.

For the remainder of the McCalebs' visit, the couple toured the crash sites of the Iron Maiden and of his father's plane, met



Patti McCaleb, left, and Robert McCaleb found time to reminisce and visit with Ruth Schaefer in Schweinfurt, Germany. The McCalebs traveled to Germany for a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary that Robert's father, H. Kenneth McCaleb, '41, was in a plane shot down during World War II.

with former Luftwaffenhelfer, and the Lord Mayor Sebastian Remelé of Schweinfurt. President of the Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association Rob Klint, who wasn't able to attend, addressed the memorial through a written speech read by Robert McCaleb, assuring that the efforts from both sides for peace were being achieved.

"We humbly remember the tragedies of the air war over Schweinfurt that occurred 70 years ago," wrote Klint. "It is especially remarkable with the tragedies that occurred, these men, once foes not by choice, but by circumstances while doing what they were called upon to do, became friends. They once fought against each other in an impersonal physically abstract battle with the 'hope' that someday they, their children and their children's children could live in peace." **C**

— Sydney Marsellis, '14



Robert McCaleb also visited with former Luftwaffenhelfer at the memorial and at the Exhibit of Schweinfurt Air War, including Gottfried Hohenberger (above) and Bernhard Merk (right). Robert attended the service to honor his father, H. Kenneth McCaleb, who was a prisoner of war in Germany during World War II. The experience led the elder McCaleb to work for ways to encourage a peaceful world.

— All photos courtesy of Robert McCaleb



TWO ACTORS ... AND A PASSION

Couple looks back to when they turned a barn into a theater.



Former theatre instructor Milton Brietzke (left) joins Vicki Mays and other alumni of the MSSU Theatre Department in song. The alumni gathered last fall at Missouri Southern for a reunion and to reminisce and perform together once more. — Photos by Samantha Zoltanski, '14

The scorching summer sun of 1956 accentuated the stark appearance of the chat piles left over from mining days that lined Route 66 in southeast Kansas. The couple and their young son were traveling in a 1950 Chevy to a new home in Joplin and a new job at Joplin Junior College. "Milton, we're only six miles from Joplin. Oh my God, what have we done?" Trij Brietzke said to her husband. "I was just thinking the same thing," Milton Brietzke said. But the landscape and their lives were about to change dramatically.

ACT ONE

Raised in California, Milton Brietzke wanted to be an actor, but he pursued his education first, achieving a bachelor's from Santa Fe State, a master's from Western Reserve, and worked on his dissertation at University of Denver.

"I was going to be an actor, so I went to New York and pounded the pavement for a year, but I discovered that I liked to eat, and \$20 a week just wasn't enough," Brietzke said.

He decided to be a teacher. His first position was in Auburn, Alabama. The dean who recruited him also wrote him a letter in advance about a bright, talented young woman in the theater department.

"Miss Trij" was a senior theatre major, and as fate would have it, the first play in which he directed her was *You Touched Me*.

They married in 1950, moved to the Denver area and then San Francisco, before accepting a position at Joplin Junior College in 1956.

For the next 30 years, Milton would bring an eclectic variety of productions, including children's theater, to the Joplin Junior College/Missouri Southern stages, supported by his wife and two sons Stephen, '77, and Zander, '82, along with the Southern students and Joplin community. And, an old barn would soon become a prized theater.

ACT TWO

Initially, the stage at the junior college was "about as big as a postage stamp," but Milton overcame that issue with a method called central staging or theater in the round.

When the college moved to the old high school, he had a stage and auditorium for bigger productions.

Shortly after the college moved to its present location, Milton saw a beautiful barn behind the old mansion. He decided the barn could be converted into a theater.

"I went to (College President) Leon Billingsly and told him my idea to convert the barn to a theater, and I thought



Trij and Milton Brietzke (front row) and their son Stephen, '77, and his wife, Christi, '78, attended the theatre department reunion in November 2013 at Missouri Southern.

it would be quite an attraction to the campus," Milton said. "Billingsly agreed only if I could do it for \$30,000, and we did it for \$29,000."

Volunteers started by shoveling manure from the barn before building the stage.

The floor was flat, so risers were installed and some movie theater seats were donated. The Barn Theater sat 150 patrons. It opened in 1966.

Duane, '59, and Gwen Hunt started as Milton's students at Joplin Junior College and joined him later as colleagues in the Southern Theatre Department. They, too, were in on the ground floor of the Barn Theater, from construction to the first and last productions.

"Milton was very practical about acting careers, and he provided excellent training for the students," Gwen Hunt said. "It was a joy to work with the Brietzkes. We inspired each other, and we were like a family with our students."

Milton used a variety of teaching tools.

"Over the years, I tried to do as

many classics as I could because these, I thought, were basic and very teachable as far as principles," Milton said. "We did Ibsen and Shakespeare and many others, including two children's productions every year."

Trij worked on all aspects of the productions as a volunteer.

"We did a lot of brave things there," Trij said. "We did some Langston Hughes works. At that time, people didn't know who he was."

One year, Milton said he decided to go with a Russian theme for the productions at the college.

For a production of *Anastasia*, Trij borrowed an authentic Russian dress from a neighbor who had escaped Russia during the revolution.

Trij said her husband had a knack for bringing out the best in his students.

"One of the things I'm so proud of is that Milt could take someone with no talent and give them something they could be proud of. He was so good at finding a person's talent," Trij said. "Theater is good training and discipline. The discipline is a lot of what people needed, and the feeling of being a part of something that's bigger than you."

Milton also played a role in developing a core college curriculum that included art, music or theatre appreciation.

The Brietzkes' talents did not go unnoticed.

"People were so nice; they brought us pies and cakes after the productions," said Trij, who also taught theatre appreciation in the 1980s.

ACT THREE

The Brietzkes' sons spent much of their youth at the Barn Theater, long before both attended and graduated from Southern.

Stephen often worked on technical issues backstage, and Zander started acting at a young age.

Stephen was a premed biology major and works as a physician at MU Medical Center in Columbia, where he lives with his wife and three children.

"I went to (College President) Leon Billingsly and told him my idea to convert the barn to a theater, and I thought it would be quite an attraction to the campus."



Firefighters battle the blaze that destroyed the Barn Theater in 1993 on the campus of Missouri Southern. The Brietzkes were instrumental in converting the barn to benefit theatre students. — Photo courtesy of The Chart archives

Stephen met his wife, Christi Hager, '78, at Southern. She was an education major who was active in children's theater productions. His parents directed her in stage productions at the Barn Theater.

"I remember there was this dud class that everyone at Southern was required to take and the only reason I went to class was to see her," Stephen said.

His brother Zander earned a bachelor's in theatre and holds a Ph.D. in drama. He lives in New Jersey with his wife, Carol, and their three children. He remembers the Barn Theater as a "magical place that was home to some unusual college productions." He was 12 when he made his stage debut at the Barn Theater.

"The Barn really was a place for growth and experimentation, and I looked up to all the college kids, many of whom were my babysitters," Zander said.

EPILOGUE

Sadly, the Barn Theater burned in 1993 and all that remains is the concrete slab next to the silo on the west side of the campus. In 1987, the Brietzkes retired and moved to Alabama, where they remained active in the arts community. The Brietzkes now live in Columbia, Missouri, and stay active going to shows and films.

"The greatest memory that we could carry away from those years in Joplin is the wonderful people that we were privileged to know there," Trij said. "There's nothing to compare them with — so many people that cared and so many people that were willing to do things." **C**

— Annie Clarkson, '15



Sean Botts (left) and Miranda Nealy, sophomore theatre majors, research dates for some costumes at the Joplin Museum Complex this spring. — Photo by Willie Brown, '14

Students help preserve history

The Joplin Museum Complex holds an extensive textile collection that was in danger of deteriorating beyond the point of usefulness. Brad Belk, executive director of the museum, contacted Anne Jaros, professor of theatre at Missouri Southern, to determine if she could develop a way to prevent the loss of the collection.

"This is somewhat technical," said Belk. "The person on the street is not always aware of the processes and procedures that we go through to try our best to preserve these wonderful gifts that have been given to the museum."

Jaros knew the historical importance of such a collection. The MSSU Service Learning Program provided a solution to the problem. The program provides a means to develop new materials and courses to promote service learning opportunities for students at Southern. The program allowed Jaros to develop the course Costume History II to teach students historical preservation.

"I designed a course to catalogue, date and preserve their collection," said Jaros.

Each student selects a garment from the collection, assesses the garment, assigns an inventory number, photographs the garment and researches the history of the garment. Students learn the proper way to catalogue the garment. Working with museum preservationist Chris Wiseman, '90, they learn the proper technique to package with acid-free paper in a box that is labeled with the inventory number. They are then placed in the storage area. The process is repeated throughout the semester.

Students develop a presentation to document their work and present it to classmates.

"The students learn so much," said Jaros.

At the end of the course, each student chooses one garment they liked working on and sets up a display with accessories for a public showing at the museum. As museum space grows, the textile collection can become a large part of the permanent display.

Belk said after a few more semesters, the collection should be fully catalogued, preserved and archived.

"We will be having one big celebration when that happens," he said.

— Robin Fjelstad, '15

Q&A:

Carthage native and biology expert Mikell Hager, '86, finds ways to preserve and protect military-impacted areas while building goodwill with other countries.

Q: In layman's terms, how would you describe the work you do?

A: I develop guidance, references, training materials and best management practices to help U.S. Army commanders and soldiers protect the environment and to be more sustainable in peace, sustainability and humanitarian assistance operations. Our goal is to reduce Army impacts on the environment as a whole with a current focus on using less water, using less power and energy, and generating less waste. I have also worked with the Defense Environmental International Cooperation program building cooperative efforts with military personnel from several African countries, Sweden and Finland to develop materials and present workshops to develop environmental security and integrate environmental consideration into their operations. I also work on environmental capability development where we try to predict what environmental tasks we want soldiers to perform in future operations and determine what resources (in terms of manpower, equipment and facilities) they would need.

Q: Much of your work deals with environmental issues. What has been the most challenging task for you?

A: To find practical ways for commanders and soldiers to reduce their impacts on the environment while completing their mission. I want it to become part of their culture with the understanding that environmental protection and sustainability helps to enhance their mission, build better relationships with the local or host nation community, and provides soldiers with a better quality of life where they work and live.

Q: How did you decide on this career path?

A: I wanted to find a career with the environment and growing up a military brat attracted me to a career in



Mikell Hager, '86, is a technical adviser at the U.S. Army Engineer School in Waynesville, Missouri. Hager helps the U.S. military minimize its environmental impact during and after a mission. — Submitted photo

federal service. The Army offered an environmental intern program to learn both the Army system and the Army Environmental Program and how they work together. Being an Army civilian has shown me how much the Department of Defense has worked to restore and protect the bases and training lands it has. They realize they are stewards for the American people and need the land to train soldiers to fulfill their mission of national defense.

Q: How did your time at Missouri Southern prepare you for this career?

A: Being a biology major at Missouri Southern helped to foster an appreciation for the wonders and complexities of nature and how man interacts and impacts with the environment. The relationships with faculty and other students helped me to appreciate people, focus on their strengths, and to work with others to accomplish the mission.

Q: What do you believe is the most critical environmental issue related to the military?

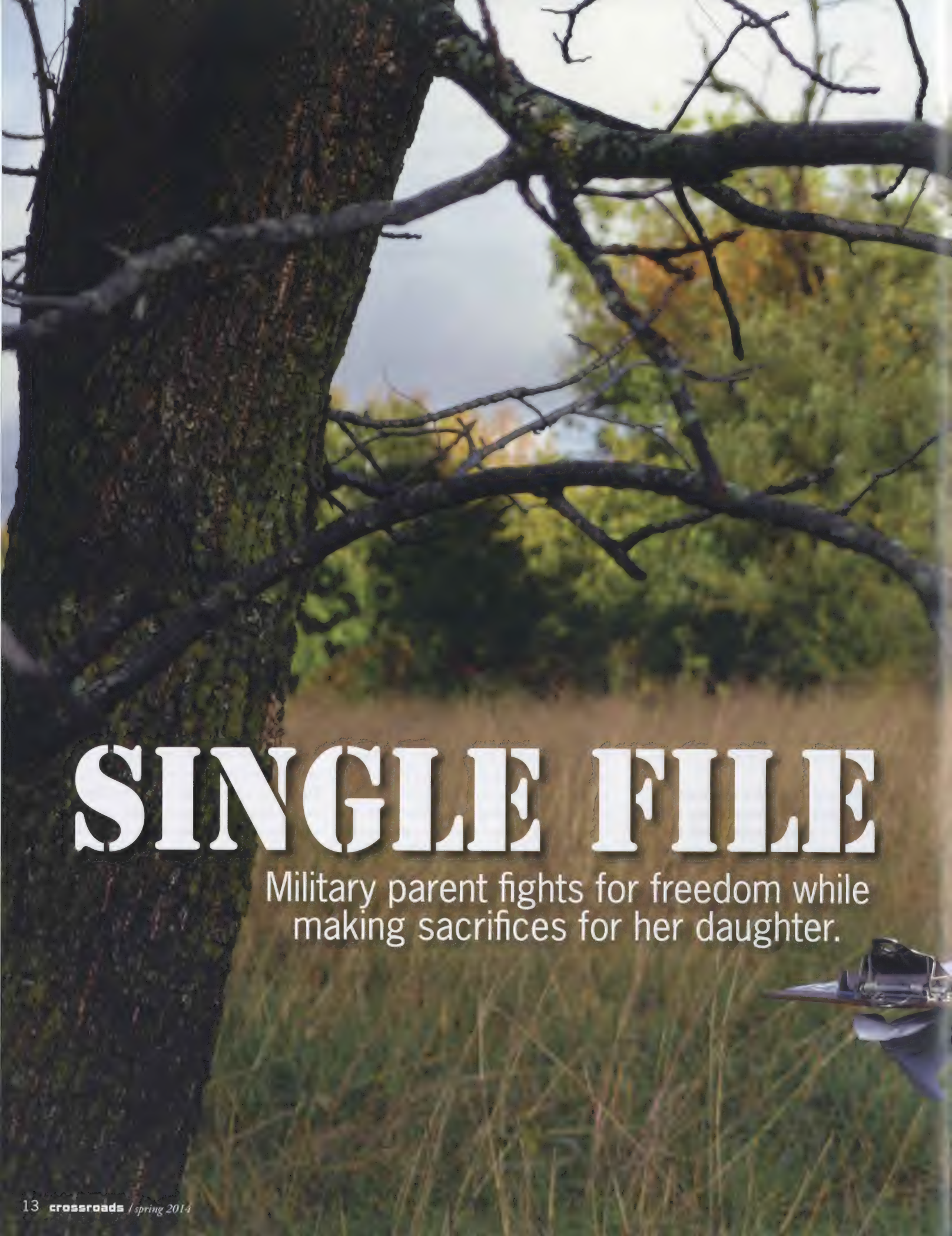
A: For contingency operations (outside of the U.S.), the most critical environmental issue is incorporating environmental considerations into initial reconnaissance and planning. It's much easier to select a base campsite if you've done a baseline survey for environmental issues and know what you are dealing with than to pick a site and then realize it already had areas of environmental concern that you have to address after moving in.

Q: What was the most rewarding aspect of your work in Africa?

A: For me, it was rewarding when you had military personnel who were amazed that the U.S. military takes such care and has programs in place for environmental protection and they feel inspired to talk to their commanders about setting up the same types of programs for their country's military. In one country where we held an Integrated Waste Management workshop, the U.S. embassy also invited various governmental and academic personnel to attend. They didn't have standardized waste management programs in their country or capital city; they primarily just dumped waste in backyards or local dumps. They asked us to outline how they would develop a national-level integrated waste management policy. We discussed with them the process, how to work with the U.S. Embassy to bring in people from U.S. Aid and the U.S. EPA for guidance and support, and how to make it culturally accepted. It really made me feel like we were making a difference by helping to improve the living conditions for people.

— Robin Fjelstad, '15

Mikell Hager, '86, is originally from Carthage, Missouri. After receiving her bachelor's in biology from Missouri Southern, she earned a master's in biology from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas in 1990.



SINGLE FILE

Military parent fights for freedom while making sacrifices for her daughter.





Left, Shonna Bourne (left), a candidate in the Missouri Southern Show-Me Gold program, takes part in a training session with Captain Amanda Self, leader and professor of military science. Right, Bourne holds her daughter, Teyanna, 1. Life as a single parent and soldier poses challenges.

A small and quick young soldier walked toward the door of the Mills Anderson Justice Center. The camouflage uniform blended into the gray sky and the only thing that stood out against the earth-tone fabric was the American flag patch and Shonna Bourne's bright ice blue eyes and warming smile. As she reached for the door she removed her cap, a regulatory act when a member of the military goes indoors in uniform; her tan boots were laced tight and confidence showed in her every step.

When Bourne joined the U.S. Army in 2007, her life was just beginning as a young adult and the need to fit in and be a part of something bigger influenced her decision to serve her country. Nervousness set in for Bourne and her family when she heard the news that her New York unit would deploy to Iraq. During her nine-month tour, she came face-to-face with how important God was in a soldier's life.

"When you are that far away from home and you spend that much time with your unit, you all become brothers and sisters; it's your family and those are the people you count on day in and day out," Bourne said.

Her reason for and willingness to fight and tackle life with confidence is more important than ever because she is the single mother of a 1-year-old daughter, Teyanna.

"I never dreamed I would one day be a young single mother and looking back now, I'm thankful for my experience in the military because it has helped me be a better mom," said Bourne.

Six years of active duty and one tour to Iraq later, Bourne is a member of the

COST OF WAR

While the rates of single parents in the U.S. Military Services are far smaller than in the civilian population, single parenthood has some significant organizational implications as the services increasingly rely on single-parent service members in combat operations. The U.S. Department of Defense reports that more than 3,700 children under the age of 18 lost a parent since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001.

Source: U.S. Department of Defense

Missouri Army National Guard. As a candidate for the Show-Me Gold program at Missouri Southern, Bourne is assured she will not be called upon to deploy while in the program. The program teaches military members to be officers, an important and successful role Bourne hopes to achieve.

While Bourne is in class and training, Teyanna attends day care, and Bourne's parents, who live in Independence, Kansas, also help out. At the end of the day, Bourne and her daughter catch up after being apart. A mother's eyes have a certain look when they gaze upon her child.

Teyanna smiled up at her mother as Bourne asked about her day. Teyanna told how she learned about musical instruments in day care that day. Bourne put her camouflage cap on Teyanna's head and the young girl laughed and made silly faces. They embraced one another while photos were taken under a golden fall tree;

Teyanna clung to Bourne as the brisk, fall wind blew.

"I'm so thankful for my parents who are always there for me and Tey," Bourne said. "They are helping me raise her while I go to school, serve in the Guard, and strive to make a better life for me and my family, and I couldn't do this without them."

That support is ever present within a soldier's military unit as well. Captain Amanda Self, leader and professor of military science at Southern, takes pride in making sure candidates receive support.

"I really make sure to try and work with the candidates' schedules such that they remain up to par on their schoolwork and family lives," Self said. "In Shonna's case, I want her to be confident right now as a single mother so I often remind her and the rest of the candidates, 'Whatever you need, we will make it happen.'"

Bourne appreciates the support the military provides.

"Captain Self and the first sergeants are so good about helping us achieve our goals and are so understanding of our lives outside of the uniform, especially when it comes to being a single mom," Bourne said. "She is always reminding us that she has our backs."

Through these programs, military families have the chance to be connected to groups that will assist them throughout their lives.

"I joined the Show-Me Gold program to have a better life for me and for my daughter," Bourne said. "I trust that my military career and our future will thrive because of this choice." **C**

— Story and photos by Natalie Cossey, '16

Spiritual CALLING



Lion finds reward in helping those with the scars of abuse.

Kayla Davis, '12, aspired to be a doctor as a little girl. She graduated from Lebanon (Missouri) High School in 2009 and began pursuing a degree in biology at Missouri Southern.

Two semesters before graduating from Southern, she came to the conclusion that she no longer wanted a career in the medical field. Her career path then took a dramatic change. Soon after graduating, Davis developed a strong passion for college-age ministry.

"I just have a heart for college-age women because that's part of my story, so I want to see women jump into college and dive into a community of people that love them," Davis said.

Her college story began much like many other students: She wanted to fit in with her new surroundings.

"I went to parties and did the things that I thought were required of me as a freshman in college," she said. "I bought into the lie that you have to try it all so that you don't miss out on anything. College is a time that can either make or break you."

While attending Southern and events at College Heights Christian Church, which is just east of the campus, Davis found a positive mentor in Tracy Horton.

"We are really honest with one another and help each other grow," said Davis.

"Whether that is encouragement saying, 'Hey, you need to be better at this,' and holding one another accountable, Tracy does that in such a gracious and loving way, and she is one of the biggest influences in my life."

Tracy and her husband, Nathan, lead discipleship groups within the college-age ministry at College Heights.



Kayla Davis, '12, speaks to the Upper Room, a college-age group, on February 23 at College Heights Christian Church in Joplin, Missouri. Davis is in a ministry residency program. — Photos by Niamh Quinn

"She would call me mentor and I would call her my encourager," said Horton of Davis. "She is honest, hilarious, contagious and magnetic. I love how she challenges people around her, including myself. I love and respect her deeply."

On June 1, Davis will complete a ministry residency program at College Heights.

The yearlong program requires Davis to complete 25 hours of work each week.

As part of her residency, she co-leads a sexual abuse community group for college-age women. The group meets once a week for about 90 minutes. Participants invest in each other and aid in healing the hurts caused by abuse. The group reads from the book *The Wounded Heart* each week.

Davis and two counselors help the group to make sense of the abuse. Megan Robertson, a marital and family counselor at College Heights, helps with the group.

"Counseling groups for survivors offer peer support, helping survivors find others who have been through a similar experience," Robertson said. "This breaks through the isolating nature of the abuse ... As a Christian, I believe God offers healing to every single person."

This spring, Davis made a decision to return to biology. She has been accepted into the Pittsburg State graduate program.

After earning a master's in biology, Davis plans to pursue a Ph.D. and eventually teach at the collegiate level. However, helping others will always be an important aspect of her life.

"I do plan to continue ministry and to help women seek wholeness," Davis said.

— Whitney Hardy, '14

The Wedding Guy



CJ, '10, and Alex (Close), '12, Maffei recite their wedding vows before Jon Smith, director of the Baptist Student Union, on September 21, 2013, at the Chapel at Integrity Hills, Big Cedar Lodge, near Branson, Missouri. — Photos courtesy of Calotype Photography

BSU director guides students when they decide to tie the knot.

It is common to find the person to spend the rest of your life with in college. This stands true for students at Missouri Southern, and some turned to one person to unite them on their special day.

Jon Smith is in his ninth year as director of the Baptist Student Union at Southern. In this time, he has met, mentored and led many students during their time in college, but he has also married 14 student couples.

Smith didn't intend to counsel and perform ceremonial duties for so many students seeking lifelong unions.

"I don't see myself as the wedding guy; over time it's just kind of happened that way," Smith said.

Nick Tuck, '08, and Teyoni Wilson, '08, were the first couple Smith united, and that wedding set the path for many to follow.

"I met Jon through the Baptist Student Union," Tuck said. "They have free lunch on

Wednesdays, and they did that when I was in college. We lived in the Royal Orleans apartments and would walk over there for lunch, and I built a relationship with him through that. He did a good job of not being pushy or anything, just building relationships with people."

Tuck and Wilson were student-athletes at Southern. Tuck was a baseball player, and Wilson was on the volleyball team. Tuck is now in his fifth season as Southern's assistant baseball coach.

After the first lunch with Tuck and the rest of the baseball players, Smith began to build relationships with the players, which led to head baseball coach Bryce Darnell, '97, asking Smith to lead a chapel service for the baseball team before every home game.

"At the beginning of the year, there may not be that many guys that go to chapel, then at the end there are more that go," Tuck

said. "So he definitely has a good effect on our team, and that's important for us, because sometimes as a coach it's easy to be short-sighted or have tunnel vision on athletics when there are so many other things that you are trying to develop in young men. He's been there with us, with our team through some really hard times. If we have a home game, he always comes out."

For each wedding ceremony he performs, Smith has one stipulation that couples must abide by.

"We had to do counseling with him," Tuck said.

Smith has extra help when it comes to steering couples in the right direction before they head down the aisle.

"My wife and I do premarital counseling," Smith said. "Anytime we do a wedding, it's mandatory that the couple goes through premarital counseling so that we



The Maffei and Jon Smith pause for a celebratory portrait on their wedding day in fall 2013.

Wedding List

Jon Smith has helped at least 14 couples with Missouri Southern connections say their vows.

Nick, '08, and Teyoni (Wilson), '08, Tuck: baseball & volleyball
Kenny, '10, and Shanika (Boyce) Hart: baseball
Ian, '11, and Courtney (Vie), '10, Saxton: football & track and field
Juan, '09, and Ciara (Lipsey), '10, Hernandez: baseball & track and field
Carter, '11, and Shannon (Robertson) Lance: baseball
Shawn, '09, and Reba (Hocker) Fitch
Austin, '08, and Christine (Hatcher), '09, Mayfield
Treay, '10, and Angela (Powell) Williams

Robbie, '07, and Sarah (Robins) Smith: band
Kevin, '12, and Carrie (Spry), '10, Burgi: baseball
Skyler, '13, and Christin (Dumas) Rawlins: baseball
Tyler, '11, and Lacey (Hickman), '12, Jinks: baseball
Dustin, '10, and Kara (Eckard), '10, Dixon: both in cross country & track and field
CJ, '10, and Alex (Close), '12, Maffei: baseball & track and field

Missouri Southern graduates denoted by year of graduation; sport or campus group is listed after each couple.

can work on some relationship tools. I don't want to just marry people. I want people to be successful in marriage, and it's hard work. It's not just me doing a wedding; it's me and my wife investing in a relationship."

CJ, '10, and Alex (Close), '12, Maffei were married last fall on September 21 in Branson, Missouri, and Smith officiated. They appreciated the counseling sessions.

"Jon and his wife, Mandi, are some of the sweetest people I know," said Alex Maffei. "They made us feel totally comfortable about counseling and every other wedding detail."

Of the 14 couples Smith has married, 10 were student-athletes, and for eight of the couples, the groom played baseball for Southern.

"Jon met with us and we had some really

good conversations, and I think it helped my wife and I learn how each of us tick and get to know one another better and know what your spouse's needs are and how to handle certain things," Tuck said. "It wasn't just all about how to have a relationship with Jesus through your marriage, but it was also financial stuff and other things. He was really good."

For many alumni, having Smith be a part of their special day is a must.

"CJ and I met at Southern, so we wanted to keep the theme going and have him officiate our wedding," said Alex Maffei.

For CJ, Smith's expertise was invaluable.

"He did a great job helping me stumble through my vows," CJ Maffei said. "He is a wedding ceremony Jedi." **E**

— Whitney Hardy, '14



Did you meet, fall in love and marry your college sweetheart at Missouri Southern?

If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please send your names, anniversary date and a brief story on how you met to **AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu** and we will update our files.

Thank you!

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If more than two entries with the correct answer are submitted, a drawing will determine the winners (previous winners cannot enter the spring contest).

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AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu

Hints can be found in the online edition of **crossroads** at
www.issuu.com/crossroadsmssu/docs/crspring14

Fall 2013 Samsung Galaxy Tab2 winners : David Locher and Dianne Vlasin

Lion Tales

By Robin Fjelstad, '15

"I truly love what I do and love all of the amazing customers I have had the pleasure of getting to know over the years."

Ashley Wakefield, '04

Missouri Southern State University alumna and owner of Sophie



Ashley Wakefield, '04, is the owner of Sophie, a boutique in the shopping center on the northwest corner of East Seventh Street and Duquesne Road just east of Joplin, Missouri. Wakefield credits hard work and a love of her business for her success. In May, Wakefield will move her boutique to a larger location in downtown Joplin. — Photo by Willie Brown, '14

ASHLEY WAKEFIELD

Who: Missouri Southern alumna, associate in business, 2004; Missouri State, bachelor's in fashion merchandising and design, 2006

What: Since July 2007, owner of Sophie, a boutique featuring footwear, handbags, accessories of all kinds and clothing.

How the business started: The idea for the store, which originally didn't have clothing, was born in college during a course called establishing a fashion business. This was essentially a project, and during the course of the class, I had to create the business plan for Sophie. I decided very early on that this was something I could do, and as I went along, I actually began work on making it a reality. Upon graduating, I immediately started the loan process and started paperwork on my location. Just seven months later we opened.

Secret to success: I just absolutely love what I do and work very hard. It pretty much encompasses my every day whether I'm at work or not. I'm constantly looking for new brands, keeping our fans up to date through social media, etc. I had my first child in May, and although I'm not in the store as much as I was (I pretty much worked six days a week up until he was born, and still do some weeks, just not as long of days), I spend most nights up late after he goes to sleep catching up. It is never ending, but I can't imagine it any other way. I truly love what I do and love all of the amazing customers I have had the pleasure of getting to know over the years. It really makes it more fun than work most days. And that is one of my favorite parts of the job — the customer interaction.

Greatest challenge: Being able to keep up with all that the job demands, especially now with my son. It took me a while to start a family for that very reason; the store was my baby for a very long time. It's very hard for me to let other people do things, but I have to let myself have help sometimes. I can't do everything all the time even though I try. This is my livelihood and is a representation of me, so it's important to me to showcase great product and friendly service to make people want to keep coming back.

Southern memories: I met a lot of people, many of whom are now customers. I commuted, so in between classes, I often went to the mall and I actually met my husband during one of those trips, so I'm very fond of that period in my life.

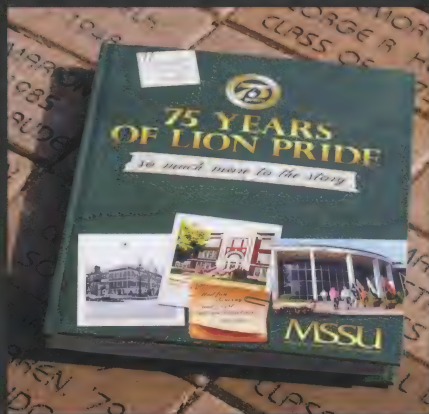
Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send Lion Tales info to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.

And now, the rest of the story ...



The project was a large group effort on campus including (from left) Wendy McGrane, library director; Jordan Baker, junior psychology major; Charles Nodler, '75, archivist; and Dr. Michael Howarth, assistant professor of English were instrumental in editing the book. The book is still available for purchase through the Missouri Southern Alumni Association.

— Photos by Willie Brown, '14, and Josh Boley, '14



Alumni collaborate to produce 75 years of green and gold.

The challenge of documenting 75 years of history could have been a daunting task, if not for the help of one particular individual. When that history contains the life stories of an entire community and the many incarnations of Missouri Southern, the burden to get it right becomes crucial.

Brad Belk, historian and executive director of the Joplin Museum Complex and a member of the Missouri Southern Alumni Board, was the perfect solution. He organized other individuals who sifted through three-quarters of a century of history and condensed it into one volume, which was presented in a manner to entertain and enlighten.

The end product, *75 Years of Lion Pride: So Much More to the Story*, landed on campus this spring, the culmination of several years of work by alumni and friends.

Belk has experience in the recordings of history. This was his eighth book, and he has a passion to help others find a love for history. For the most recent history of Southern, he had a unique idea.

"I thought it would be so much better if it was multivoiced," said Belk. "The obvious thing came to mind: Let's get some alums and graduates who happen to be outstanding writers, many of whom are professional writers, and let's get them onboard ... and they were absolutely fabulous."

Belk began research for the project after the summer of 2010. He started with the history of Southern documented in *In Pursuit of Excellence: Missouri Southern State College 1937-1992* by Gail Renner, as well as *The Chart* archives and old *Crossroads* yearbooks and magazines. He wanted to produce a book that was not as formal and textbook-like as Renner's.

The alumni working on the project composed features and articles related to a specific decade or area of interest most closely associated with their time as students at Southern.

Gloria Pederson Turner, '69 and '71, provided stories from the 1960s. Her contributions defined a decade in which student life continued in the wake of the John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. assassinations and building tensions in Vietnam. Additional contributions by Turner detailed the beginning of Dr. Julio León's 38 years of service to Southern and the 20-year legacy of the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition begun by his wife, Vivian.

Stephen E. Smith, '77, coordinator of digital media at Southern, contributed articles that covered the integration of Joplin Junior College in the early 1950s as well as the history of the Afro-American Society, a campus organization from the 1960s through 1970s. He said his interviews with students and staff from that time provided a clear understanding of a



Alumni Association board member Brad Belk discusses *75 Years of Lion Pride: So Much More to the Story*. Belk led a team of alumni to produce the book that highlights 75 years of Missouri Southern, dating back to its early beginnings as Joplin Junior College. — Photo by Curtis Almeter, '13

turbulent time in America and how well the transition went for both.

Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, director of the Institute of International Studies, contributed articles about the long association he and his family have had with Southern.

When Stebbins was 9, his father, longtime biology professor Wayne E. Stebbins, was hired. Stebbins' contributions about the 1980s tell of a decade in which the Campus Activities Board put on big-name concerts. Stebbins wrote about his work as a member of the staff of and later as adviser to *The Chart*.

Lee Elliff Pound, '86, director of the Missouri Southern Alumni Association, provided her dedication speech for the grand opening of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center.

Kevin McClintock, '94, editor of *JMag*, a publication of the *Joplin Globe*, penned short articles about controver-

sial hot-button topics of the 1990s, such as AIDS awareness and education, the expanding Internet, the 20th anniversary of Earth Day and the growing trend of personalized license plates.

"It was a cool decade and we had the best music," said McClintock.

He also reviewed the foreign film exhibitions at Southern and "A New Chapter for Missouri Southern," an article about the quick response and support of Southern in the aftermath of the May 22, 2011, tornado that devastated Joplin and the surrounding area.

The design team for the project consisted of Southern graduates, including Joplin Museum Curator Chris Wiseman, '90, and Brianna Maxwell, '00.

Most of the original photos used in the project were destroyed at some point in the past, but Belk said Wiseman was able to reproduce most of the images.

"He took all of those grainy images

and masterfully, after hours and hours, hundreds and maybe thousands of hours, cleared those things up," said Belk.

He said Maxwell designed an interesting layout with multiple cutouts, which gives the feel of a memory or scrapbook.

He said people's concentration levels are not as long as they used to be, so these tidbits sometimes are more interesting.

"I've got this team of incredible writers, then Brianna and Chris, and I have another team of outstanding editors, and then Lee and I and all of this, it's just been a team effort," said Belk. "It was a longer journey than I wanted, but we wanted to do it the best we could."

"My hope and desire is that people have a better understanding of the incredible story."

— Robin Fjelstad, '15

Enjoy a part of Missouri Southern's history by purchasing a book about the past 75 years.

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Warren Turner (left) receives an award from Jerald Andrews, president of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Turner, Missouri Southern's baseball coach from 1977-2007, was inducted during a ceremony on January 26 in Springfield, Missouri. — Photo courtesy of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame

Honor to the coach

Missouri Sports Hall of Fame enshrines Warren Turner.

A Missouri sports organization paid homage to one of Missouri Southern's own January 26 in Springfield, Missouri. Warren Turner, Southern head baseball coach from 1977-2007, was inducted into the 2014 Missouri Sports Hall of Fame along with 14 others.

"Well, I had a lot of good help," Turner said on being inducted. "From the players, to the parents of players, to the other coaches, I had a lot of good help. I've been very blessed."

Turner amassed 852 career victories with the Lions, which set the all-time wins record for MSSU. He was the NCAA Regional Coach of the Year twice; NAIA District 16 Coach of the Year four times; and NAIA National Coach of the Year. Turner was elected to the NAIA Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2004 and into the ABCA Hall of Fame in 2008. He also is a member of the MSSU Athletics Hall

of Fame. He guided five teams to national tournaments and in 1978 finished second to Emporia State in the NAIA World Series. He coached MSSU to two NCAA Division II appearances, finishing as national runner-up in 1991 and fifth the following year.

"What was interesting about the '78 team was that we had eight pitchers on the team — seven left-handed pitchers and only one right-handed pitcher," Turner said. "We had a lot of talent on those teams; several guys signed pro contracts. It really helped establish some respect for the university."

Bryce Darnell, '97, a former player and the head coach who succeeded Turner, was in attendance to support his former coach.

"Coach Turner was an influence to hundreds of young student-athletes," Darnell said. "When you think of MSSU

baseball you think of him."

Turner said he enjoys being retired and does not feel the need to put on a uniform and fill out a lineup card from time to time.

"I still watch a lot of games," he said. "I have been reffing games, my grandson plays, I am scouting players for ESPN, so I have been able to stay involved in athletics, but it has been nice to spend more time with my family."

The Southern coaching icon joined two other Lions — former track and field/cross country coach Tom Rutledge and former All-American football player Rod Smith — in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Dr. Pat Lipira, MSSU interim vice president for academic affairs and former Lion softball coach, was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame on April 24. Her induction will be featured in the fall issue of *Crossroads*. **C**

— Josh Dunlap, '15

FULL COURT PRESS

Winningest coach in Lion basketball history signs off.



Head coach Robert Corn, '78, and his son Rob watch the pregame warmup before Missouri Southern plays Central Missouri on February 8. — Photo by Willie Brown, '14

Around the four-state area, Robert Corn, '78, has made a significant impact on the basketball world. His 25-year run as head coach for Missouri Southern boasts more than 400 career wins, four trips to the NCAA Division II Tournament, many professional athletes and countless positive impressions on the student-athletes he recruited and invested time.

Corn is third on the MIAA's all-time wins list and is second among active coaches. He is also the winningest coach in Lion basketball history. With his retirement at the end of the 2013-14 season, the university and former players are finding ways to celebrate their favorite coach.

To honor his legacy, a committee was developed by co-chairs Keith Adams, '49, and Mike Pound to raise funds to name the court in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center after Corn.

"We were thrilled with passing the goal amount, but not surprised," Pound said. "We knew he was well-respected. We received a few substantial donations, but a lot of \$100, \$50 donations as well, so that goes to show how many people's lives he touched or impacted."

Adams has been a longtime supporter of the men's basketball team.

"Coach Corn became my brother, a great friend," Adams said. "This has been an opportunity to show him love. Being a part of leaving his legacy is something hard to describe. It's a great feeling, one that brings tears to your eyes."

Blake Bard, '02, a former player, served on the Full Court Press committee.

"With the basketball community and high school teams, he's been very well respected," said Bard of coach Corn. "I think people know him on a very personal level. It is a suiting and deserving tribute to him."

"For us, I'm going to take a great deal of pride coming back here in future years to watch games and see his name on that court, and I'll always have that memory and his family and the people that are close to him will have that memory."



Robert Corn, '78, discusses a call with the referee during Missouri Southern's game February 22. The Lions beat Pittsburg State 110-90 in what would be the retiring coach's final home game at Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. — Photo by Willie Brown, '14

Corn's coaching style is what set him apart for Bard.

"He demands respect, and that's not by his aggressive nature, it's more like a parent," said Bard. "You don't want to disappoint him; you really want to work your tail off for him. I've said many times he would never ask anybody to do anything he wasn't willing to do himself."

Corn made his program a family affair. His wife, Cindy, supported the team, and their sons Robert and Scott have been involved as water and ball boys on the bench for years. On several occasions, they also led the team out of the tunnel at home games.

"So many times we have players that are from a long distance away, and they're always at our house for a home-cooked meal from Cindy," said Corn. "She's the one always behind the scenes. A lot of the

players will go up to her after a game and say something to her. My sons have had a lot of big brothers."

His commitment to his players after they graduate is a testament to his genuine nature.

"Even to this day, coach will send texts on Thanksgivings or Christmases, or send an email making sure you're OK," said Bard. "You were not going to come in here and not know Cindy, Rob and Scott. Coach Corn was a package deal and that was so cool; it kept us grounded."

After many years, the Corn family's efforts are being recognized.

"As a coach, it's probably the greatest honor you can receive so it's very humbling and I'm very appreciative that the committee is taking on that challenge to make it possible," said Corn.

"It's something that Cindy, Rob and

Scott and I take a lot of pride in."

From a university perspective, Corn has developed a reputation of trust.

"When he meets with the families and the athletes, they see that he's a long-tenure coach and he's a genuine guy that wants their sons to be successful," said Jared Bruggeman, director of athletics.

After Corn's retirement, assistant coach Jeff Boschee will take over as head coach. Corn will remain a part of the university and maintain alumni relations to raise funds for the place he calls home.

"I love this university; I graduated here," said Corn. "Twenty-five years has flown by. It's gone by in a hurry and it's always a joy to see my former players and to talk to them. It's fun to watch those kids grown up. I'll always keep a hand on each and every one of those guys." **E**

— Sydney Marsellis, '14

Full Court Press Committee:

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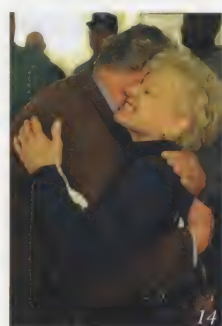
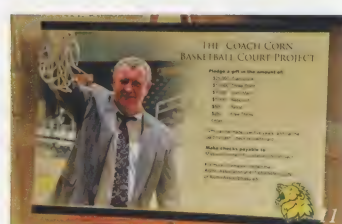
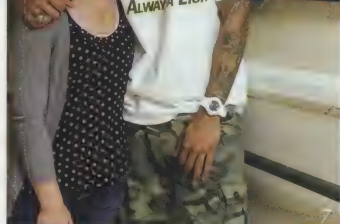
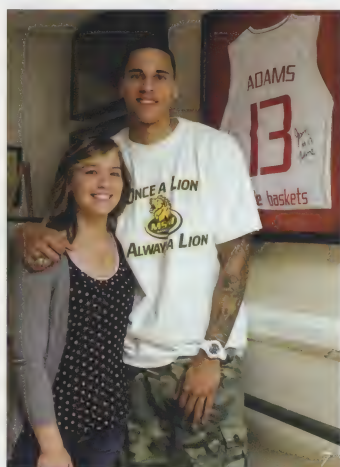
For more information:

Donations for the Robert Corn Scholarship Fund are accepted through the Missouri Southern Foundation c/o the MSSU Alumni Association. To donate to the fund, visit mssu.edu/giving or call 417-659-LION. Two scholarships will benefit an athlete and pep band member.

Keith Adams, '49, a co-chair on this Alumni Association project, takes pride in developing a fund to honor his friend:

"We're not just doing this for Robert, he is very deserving, but it will also benefit the student that receives his scholarship."

It's a full house for Robert Corn, '78



1. The screen in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center displays the score of the last home win for Robert Corn, '78. 2. Cindy Corn and Jamie and Mary Rose Boschee. 3. Keith Adams, '49, and the Haynes brothers, Mel and Bill, '58. 4. Cindy, Robert, Rob and Scott Corn with Katie Crandall Pickering, Sarah Crandall Angelette and Doug Crandall, Full Court Press committee member. 5. Don and Gloria LaFerla. 6. Ruth Thomann, Emily Woods, Courtney Williams, Darlene Bowlin Horton, T.J. Williams, '12, and Mike Thomann. 7. Ashley Harris, '13, and Jason Adams. 8. Jeff Boschee and Dr. Alan Marble, '79. 9. Robert and Rob Corn and Ronnie Ressel, '92, and Tim Burrell, '94. 10. Ron Hall, Leon Bolding, John Cochran, '78, Robert Corn, Brent Cook and Chuck Williams. 11. Full Court Press poster. 12. Jared Bruggeman, Dr. Michael, '89, and Bre LaFerla with daughter, Jady. 13. Adam Babcock, '02; Carlos Newberry, '00; and Terry Shumpert, '02. 14. Robert and Sonnie Dooley. 15. Blake Bard, '02; Robert; Jeff Boschee; Patrick Hester, '13; Adams; Rob Corn; Ressel; Chris Scruggs, '12; and T.J. Williams. 16. Donor-signed banner thanking Robert for 25 years. 17. Lori Marble and Mae Neece. 18. Once a Lion, Always a Lion donor-signed T-shirt. 19. Lee Elliff Pound, '86; Cindy, Robert, Rob and Scott Corn; and Mike Pound. — Photos by Willie Brown, '14, and Lee Elliff Pound, '86

AGAINST THE ODDS

From the streets of the Crescent City to the Lions' court, this student-athlete stays positive with a little motivation.

Standing at 6-foot-11, Gregoryshon "Slim" Magee, senior center and general studies major, doesn't find basketball a difficult sport. His height, speed and passion for the game helped catapult his career at Missouri Southern after transferring from Division I University of South Alabama in August 2013, when a knee injury almost sidelined him.

The transfer shone as the Lions played for the MIAA Championship this spring. Magee's efforts earned him the MIAA Most Valuable Player at the championship tournament in Kansas City, Missouri.

"I'm still speechless," Magee said. "I never thought I'd really ever go to college, and now I've been a part of a team that has accomplished so much. I can't say it was me. One person can't turn a team around; a team turns a team around."

Some would say Magee has it easy, but this role model to young Lion fans has endured his share of hardships and loss.

He was exposed to gun violence and crime from birth. He remembers going to elementary school with his friends, and early on, Magee had a desire to learn and play basketball. As he grew up, many of his close friends drifted toward crime and violence.

In 2011, study results were published in the *American Sociological Review*. The researchers found that growing up in areas of poverty and unemployment can reduce the ability to graduate from high school by as much as 20 percent. For Magee, beating those odds became a goal. But this Lion, who was raised with eight siblings by a single mother, had another priority as a kid: to stay alive on the streets of New Orleans.

Over time, Magee's friends were either murdered in the streets or sent to jail for the crimes they committed with their

gangs. He felt devastated when he would hear that another friend had been killed or arrested. The empty seats in his classroom were a constant reminder of the losses he experienced, and it affected his grades and attitude.

If not for a mentor, Bryan Hall, a pastor at Woodlawn Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, Magee might not have made it out of the neighborhood with his dreams intact. Hall made many trips to the New Orleans area to minister to the youth.

"Everybody has choices, and I think the big choices are made up of little choices," said Hall. "When Shon and I met, our bond surprised most people. Not letting people get to you that could pull you in the wrong direction was something I told him. He has people that care about him genuinely and want the best for him. He has a very easy-going nature and has so much to offer. I just encouraged that."

This positive role model impacted Magee's life for the better.

"I had people that were willing to reach out and help me, and I was willing to take that help," said Magee. "A lot of my friends denied the people that would come from different states and take us to different stuff like church camps and stuff, and I was one that would always go."

Magee overcame the hardship of living in an area of poverty and violence. He graduated high school, went to college and defeated the stereotype of a child from his background not graduating.

"Something that sets me apart is I have something pushing me," Magee said. "She's the extra motivation and it just makes me tough. I refuse to fail."

That something special is his 3-year-old daughter, Leyah, who lives in New Orleans with her mother. Magee talks to Leyah each

night after a full day of classes and practice.

"I just know if I don't grind and I'm not successful, nobody's going to take her out of the hood," he said.

Magee understands well the risks his daughter faces. Dr. Conrad Gubera, professor of sociology, said children's concepts are most impacted from the ages of 7 to 9.

"From that young age, the child's mind is so vastly open to concepts of what is right and wrong, and those impressionable years shape their cognitive thinking," said Gubera. "When everything is going against them, the people that invest in their lives are the ones that stop the behavior."

In addition to his mentor, Magee's mother, Rhonda Robertson, was a positive force. Magee said she taught him to be tough and believe in the power of prayer, even after he lost a brother to gun violence. Magee has beaten the odds and hopes to land a contract with a professional basketball team overseas and is always thinking about little Leyah.

"I'm the only person that can really just change her life. I want to give her a life I never had," Magee said. "It weighs heavily on me. I know if I don't finish school or be successful, I feel I disappoint my daughter."

Magee has impacted the lives of fans in Joplin. He's humbled when he hears that a young fan looks up to him as a role model.

"Sometimes when I'm by myself, I wonder what I did and why I'm in this situation," Magee said. "I want to capitalize on the opportunities before me and take advantage of good things because I may never get the chance to again. I just focus on keeping faith and not giving up on myself. If you don't give up on yourself, no one else can give up on you." **C**

— Sydney Marsellis, '14



Gregoryshon "Slim" Magee holds a photo of his daughter and inspiration, Leyah Trinity Magee. — Photo by Samantha Zoltanski '14



The Lions celebrate after winning the 2014 MIAA Basketball Tournament Championship on March 9 in Kansas City, Missouri, defeating Central Oklahoma, 84-72. Missouri Southern earned a trip to the NCAA Division II Tournament for the third time in four years. — Photo by Samantha Zoltanski, '14

PERFECT ENDING

Lions' MIAA Championship caps storied career for Corn.

The 2013-14 Missouri Southern men's basketball team had one of the most successful seasons in the program's history.

The Lions captured the 2014 MIAA Basketball Tournament Championship and finished one game out of first place in the final regular-season league standings.

The Lions also earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament for the third time in the last four years as Southern picked up the MIAA's automatic berth to the Central Region Tournament and was seeded third in the postseason event.

The Lions faced off with Fort Hays State University and defeated the Tigers 80-69, before falling to No. 20 Central Missouri 94-84 in the round of 32.

The Lions finished the season ranked 19th in the Division II National Poll, and senior guard Marquis Addison was a first-team All-MIAA selection as well as a second-team All-Region selection. He was also chosen to participate in the Division II All-Star Game in Evansville, Indiana.

Addison moved in front of Skyler Bowlin for fifth-place all-time on the MSSU scoring list this season. He finished his career with 1,667 points, 490 rebounds, 223 steals and 297 assists. His .836 career free-throw percentage is second-best all time and he ranks fourth in career steals with 223.

Jordan Talbert, a third-team All-MIAA selection, became one of only three play-

ers in MSSU history (John Thomas and Chris Tucker) with 1,000 points and 700 rebounds as he ends his Southern career with 1,057 points, 731 rebounds and 170 blocks. His 170 blocks ranks second-best all-time, while his rebound totals rank third-best and he has two of the top-five all-time single-season block totals.

Slim Magee, an honorable mention All-MIAA pick and the MIAA Tournament MVP, finished his career with the top single-season blocks mark at MSSU with 65, while his .670 field goal percentage this season ranks him top all-time on the single-season list.

The Lions finished the season as one of the best-shooting teams in the history of the program.

The team set the single-season mark for field goal percentage (.510), as well as 3-point field goal percentage (.413), besting the marks of .506 from the field in 1980-81 and .391 from long-range in 1988-89.

Austin Wright finished the regular-season with the best-ever 3-point shooting performance from an individual as the sophomore shot .493 from beyond the arc this season. This bested the previous mark of .471 set by Caleb Engleken in 2002-03.

Robert Corn ended his illustrious career on the sidelines at Missouri Southern with the most wins ever by a coach at the school (413). He has the third-most wins among coaches in MIAA history and led the Lions to 16-straight trips to the MIAA Tournament, 21 overall, and this season was named the MIAA Coach of the Year, his fourth overall, after picking up the ninth 20-win season in his career at Southern.

— Justin Maskus,
Athletic Media Relations Director



Above, senior guard Marquis Addison led the Lions with 21 points in the championship game, finishing the tournament with 63 points. Right, senior Jordan Talbert fakes a shot in the first game of the 2014 MIAA Basketball Tournament March 7 in Kansas City, Missouri. — Photos by Samantha Zoltanski, '14



Lions finish with 19-win season

Team's 2013-14 record is highest single-season win total in 18 years.



Shonte Clay, senior forward, earned All-MIAA honorable mention this season. — Submitted photo

The Missouri Southern women's basketball team wrapped up a successful 2013-14 season with a trip to the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City as it reached the program's highest single-season win total in 18 years, winning 19 games on the year. After 12-year head coach Maryann Mitts retired in July, longtime associate head coach Ronda Hubbard was elevated to the top spot, helping lead Southern to a fourth place finish in the MIAA.

Southern was led by four seniors who showed great leadership throughout the year as senior forward Dominique Mosley earned first-team All-MIAA honors after finishing in the top 10 in the conference in scoring, rebounding and

field-goal percentage. Senior guard Samantha Soyez finished fifth in the MIAA in assists, while senior forward Shonte Clay earned All-MIAA honorable mention as she finished fifth in the conference in field-goal percentage. Two other Lions also earned All-MIAA honorable mention honors: junior guard Alexis Fitzpatrick and sophomore guard Sharese Jones. Fitzpatrick led the league in steals while Jones finished third in the league in free-throw percentage and 12th in scoring.

Junior guard Nicole Hartzog also had a great year as she played in 24 games, averaging 10.5 points and shot 43.4 percent from 3-point range.

— Travis Blanshan,
Athletic Media Relations Assistant



Left, senior Jake Benton was one of the top-five cross country finishers for Missouri Southern at the NCAA Championships at Spokane, Washington. Center, junior Dora Eastin finished ninth at the MIAA Championships at Pitt State. Right, junior Katie Politte was named an All-MIAA selection and amassed 304 kills in 24 matches played this season. — Photos by Mike Gullett

It's a wrap ...

Southern excels in fall events

Men's cross country

Under first-year head coach Bryan Schiding, the team completed another successful fall campaign and finished 19th in the country at the NCAA Championships in Spokane, Washington. Junior Eric Schott was Southern's top finisher at 69th and ran the 10k course in a time of 31:45.3. Senior Jake Benton, juniors Adrian Todd and Colton Wooldridge and sophomore Ryan Jackson rounded out the top-five finishers for MSSU.

The Lions also had a strong performance at the MIAA Championships where they narrowly missed winning their first title since 2009, as Central Missouri edged Southern by a single point. Schott, Benton and junior Andrew Webster earned All-MIAA honors for finishing in the top 10 — fifth, seventh and ninth, respectively. Southern had a solid outing at the Central Regional Championships in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, finishing third as a team with Benton, Todd and Schott earning All-Region honors for finishing in the top 25.

The Lions won meets at the Jackling Jocks Invitational at Missouri S&T University and at the Missouri Southern Stampede; they finished third at the Chili Pepper Festival at the University of Arkansas.

Women's cross country

After winning the MIAA Championships in 2012, the team overcame the loss of its top-five point scorers to finish fourth

at the MIAA Championships hosted by Pittsburg State. Junior Dora Eastin led the charge, finishing ninth individually traversing the 6k course in a time of 22:11.89 to earn All-MIAA honors. Sophomore Addie Mengwasser finished 21st, sophomore Emily Harris took 32nd and freshmen Kayla Bartelsmeyer and Sierra Gray were 41st and 52nd, respectively.

The Lions finished 12th at the Central Regional Championships in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Eastin earned All-Region honors, finishing fifth in the 6k with a time of 21:23.71, qualifying for the NCAA Championships in Spokane, Washington,

as an individual where she would go on to finish 102nd overall in a time of 22:36.5.

The Lions finished third at the Jackling Jocks Invitational at Missouri S&T and the Missouri Southern Stampede and eighth at the Chili Pepper Festival at the University of Arkansas.

Football (7-3)

The 2013 version of the team proved to be one of the best in recent memory. The Lions finished the season 7-3 overall and were 5-3 in the MIAA. Southern started the season 3-0 with wins against Central Oklahoma, Northeastern State and Lincoln, and the Lions were 5-1 when they hit a tough stretch against No. 4 Missouri Western and No. 2 Northwest Missouri. The Lions would drop both games, but Southern didn't lose from then on out, including breaking a 20-year drought with a 35-21 win at No. 9 Pittsburg State in the season finale. Southern won for the first time in Pittsburg since 1983 and for the first time against the Gorillas since 1993.

Nine Lions were named All-MIAA, and 11 players were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Chris Barnwell and Gatlin Ridgway were named All-Region, with Barnwell earning All-American honors. Giresse Forchu was an Academic All-District selection, and the Lions ended the 2013 campaign as Division II's leader in time of possession, holding onto the ball for an average of 35:14 each game. Southern also ranked second nationally in both rushing yardage and fewest passes intercepted. In all, the Lions ranked in the

Left, senior Gatlin Ridgway and junior Chris Barnwell, center, received All-Region honors last fall. Barnwell was also an All-American honorable mention by Don Hansen. Right, senior defender Dana Wilhelm earned third-team All-MIAA honors for the Lions in the 2013 season. — Photos by Mike Gullett and Justin Maskus



top 10 nationally in nine different categories, while ranking 14th in turnovers lost.

Volleyball (4-26)

The team looked to rebound from a disappointing winless 2012 campaign. With interim coach Rachel Kirkman at the helm, the Lions won three of their first six matches, but a tough MIAA road would look them in the eye and the Lions would finish the season 4-26 overall.

Junior outside hitter Katie Politte was named an All-MIAA selection after leading the Lions with 3.34 kills per set this year as she amassed 304 kills in 24 matches played. The Lions had six players named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll, and Southern announced the hiring of former Boston College assistant coach John Napier to be head coach of the program. Napier has Division I experience at Northern Ari-

zona, Akron and the U.S. Air Force where he recently retired as a major after 22.5 years of service.

Soccer (4-8-4)

It was another successful fall for coach Alese Woolard and her squad as the Lions went 4-8-4 overall, 3-5-3 in the MIAA. The highlight of the season came on October 10 when Southern traveled to No. 11 Central Missouri. Two goals from sophomore forward Karley Thomas gave the Lions a quick 2-0 lead, and despite a late rally from UCM, Southern held on for a 2-1 win that snapped the Jennies' 48-match MIAA unbeaten streak. It was the Lions first win over a ranked opponent since 2007, and Central Missouri's first loss in the MIAA since 2009.

In addition to beating the eventual MIAA champion, the Lions had victories

over East Central University and MIAA wins over Northeastern State and Missouri Western. Thomas led the team in points with nine, notching two goals and a team-high five assists. Seniors Dana Wilhelm and Tiffany Laughlin and junior Katelyn Roberson each scored a team-high three goals. Senior Abby Risner and junior Beth Hammons split goalkeeper duties for the second year as they combined for a .797 save percentage and 106 saves on the year. Wilhelm earned third-team All-MIAA honors, while Thomas and Laughlin earned honorable mention. In addition to their play on the field, the Lions excelled in the classroom, as 14 players were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll for having at least a 3.0 GPA.

— Justin Maskus,
Athletic Media Relations Director, and
Travis Blanshan, Athletic Media Relations Assistant

Former Lions play internationally

Continued from Page 6

tryout, which was \$1,800, and airfare, which was \$1,100," Olinyk said. "I saved and raised all the money. I had to make a team because I would have come home completely broke and broken-hearted. I trained all summer but couldn't find anywhere to play indoors. So I played beach volleyball and worked out at a gym to get ready."

The 10-day tryouts consisted of two-hour sessions three times daily. European coaches observed the participants and made their selections. "If they like you and you like what they are offering, you hop in their car and head to their country," Olinyk said. "I was picked up on the first official day of playing after only one two-hour session. I had two offers, Offenbourg, Germany, and Straubing, Germany. I liked

Straubing's deal more and chose to go with them."

Olinyk became the first MSSU volleyball player to play professionally. Her season in the Deutsche Volleyball League started on September 21 and ended on April 12. The 11 teams are located in the Bavaria region of Germany and include such cities as Munich, Nuremberg, Dresden, Stuttgart and Offenbourg.

Olinyk has reconnected with four German exchange students from Ansbach University, whom she met while living next door to them in East Hall at MSSU. She also recalls meeting former Ansbach President Gerhard Mammen in 2010 when he spoke to her Introduction to International Studies class.

"I see the Ansbach University exit all of the time when we drive to away games,"

she said. "It is cool to have heard about that school and now I live close to it. I never knew that I would end up living in Germany."

Olinyk and her two American teammates/roommates have part-time jobs with a bakery/butcher shop/post office called Naber. "Yes, it really is all of those things rolled into one small place," she said. "I like working there because we learn a little more German and it is a great place to make new friends."

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82
Director, Institute of International Studies



From left, Jasmine Lovejoy, Skylar Bowlin and Keane Thomann continue their basketball careers by playing internationally in leagues in Australia and Europe. — Submitted photos

Alumni excel in, out of classrooms

Educators receive honors for teaching

Graduates of the Missouri Southern School of Education achieved recognition as outstanding leaders and educators.

Jason Navarro, '01, a social studies teacher at Wheaton High School, qualified as a finalist for the Missouri Teacher of the Year Award.

He has taught at WHS for 12 years and is credited with expanding the National History Day Program in Wheaton. Under his sponsorship, participation among high school students increased and several students qualified for the national level. Navarro was named the Wheaton K-3 District Teacher of the Year last year and is the first educator from his district to be nominated for such an honor as a qualification for the Missouri Teacher of the Year Award.

Patrick Bromley, '09, is a business teacher at McAuley Catholic High School in Joplin and has been named the Distinguished Teacher of the Year by the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

He was nominated by both the McAuley principal and the pastor of his parish. Bromley has been influential in executing a mentor/internship program that links upperclassmen with professionals in the community to help students gain job-shadowing and internship opportunities before graduating. He is the adviser of the school's FBLA chapter and coaches cross-country, track and junior varsity boys basketball.

Tobin Schultz, '02, was this year's recipient of the prestigious Milken Educator Award and a cash prize of \$25,000. Schultz has been teaching for 11 years and is a social studies teacher and varsity football defensive coordinator at Joplin High School. He was the designer of the school's LINK Crew Program, which pairs upperclassmen with freshmen in an effort to adjust first-year students to high school.

The Joplin school district credits the program with a 50-percent increase in attendance rates, fewer discipline referrals of freshmen, A's and B's at higher rates, and the failure rate

decreased by 42 percent.

"These three teachers exemplify the art and science of effective teaching," said Deborah Brown, head of the teacher education department. "The awards bestowed on them are competitive and impressive by any standard. The MSSU Teacher Education Department is proud of their accomplishments and the difference they made in the lives of children and young people."

Education program earns top ranking

Southern was recently recognized as a top college for teacher education.

The Online College Database's latest ranking, Top Colleges in Missouri: Shaping the Next Generation, honors the post-secondary institutions in the state that graduated the most education and teaching professionals in 2012.

Southern ranked in the top third in the Shaping the Next Generation list and in the top 12 in Student-Teacher Ratio. The university also was ranked among the top 10 in the Missouri 20-30 club, which is comprised of colleges and universities that have an annual tuition under \$20,000 and an average starting salary over \$30,000.

"It's good to be recognized for a job well done," said Dr. Al Cade, interim dean of the school of education, adding that the rankings are "just a piece of the puzzle."

"We continue both as a school and as a department to work to produce the very best teachers for our area schools," he said.

Instructors teach in Sierra Leone

Dr. William Edwards, professor of teacher education, and Dr. Jeanie Cozens, associate professor of teacher education, returned to Sierra Leone over spring break to facilitate a second college instructor workshop at the Northern Polytechnic College in Makeni, Sierra Leone.

They previously traveled to Sierra Leone in May 2013 to work with the faculty at Northern Polytechnic in literacy and assessment through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Education program. Edwards and Cozens spent time with the 2013 participants to hear and observe how well these instructors were able to implement new teaching strategies in their classes.

— From staff reports



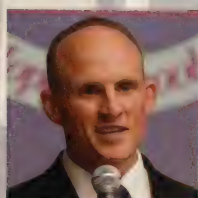
Jason Navarro, '01

Social Studies Teacher
Wheaton (Missouri) High School



Patrick Bromley, '09

Business Teacher
McAuley Catholic High School



Tobin Schultz, '02

Social Studies Teacher
Joplin (Missouri) High School

Bards return to campus this spring

Shakespeare Festival set for June

Southern Theatre will present the Missouri Shakespeare Festival in June. In its second year, the festival will be expanding to two weekends: June 19-22 and 26-29.

"Last year, our production of *Macbeth* went over very well," said Dr. Jim Lile, chair of the theatre department. "It was a successful production and well received. This summer we're going to do *Twelfth Night*."

Lile hopes the festival will continue to grow.

"We hope that as we grow we'll be able to do two shows in a repertoire context and to go do auditions in other places and hire actors as we go along," he said.

Evening shows will be offered at 7:30 p.m., with matinees at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. For more, contact the ticket office at 417-625-3190.

Institute readies for Turkey Semester

Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies, visited the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C., in January. He met with the embassy's deputy councilor and discussed Southern's upcoming Turkey Semester.

"I asked for ideas and suggestions and he was very interested," said Stebbins. "He was very appreciative that we have chosen Turkey as our featured country. We talked about the possibility of getting funding (for programming) and sent him a proposal."

Instructor co-authors book chapter

Dr. Charles Yeager, assistant professor of geography, co-authored a chapter in the book *The Geography of Beer: Regions, Environments and Societies*.

Yeager, along with Jay Gatrell from Indiana State University and David Nemeth from the University of Toledo, penned one of the chapters: "Sweetwater, Mountain Springs, and Great Lakes: A hydro-geography of beer brands."

"We had been dealing with food systems and how they change over time in a region," said Yeager. "Beer really fit with that. After all, beer is liquid bread. The production is historically similar to how food was produced."

"It's a water-based production activity. We looked at how beer production was tied to water resources and how the effects of globalization changed that to get an idea of the importance of water as a natural resource in beer production today."

Yeager, who is completing his first year of

teaching at Missouri Southern, said work on the project began about a year ago. The book was released in hardcover in March 2014.

Bio students learn new techniques

DNA sequencing is considered the main language of biology. During the fall 2013 semester, students at Southern had the opportunity to delve into its hidden secrets using an innovative procedure. Students in Dr. Gerald Schlink's genetics class participated in a national scientific exploration of gene annotations through synthetic biology. By using scientific programs, algorithms and websites, they were able to map the makeup of genes, their functions and how they affect the development of organisms.

The students learned how to use state-of-the-art bioinformatics tools to explore real data through a procedure called "genomics" — making MSSU one of only about 50 schools in the nation to be involved with the program. The high-tech process offers a new way to teach fundamental concepts and show that bioinformatics algorithms are mathematical articulations of biological principles.

It was the first semester the study was offered at MSSU and plans are underway for it to be offered each year. Schlink said the process of advanced genomics will eventually be implemented into other science fields. For now, it's rooted in genetics and will expand from there.

"Synthetic biology is so advanced, 30 years ago, people wouldn't have even thought it would ever exist — it's hard to comprehend that technology," said Schlink. "The kids need to know that there's something like this out there that will change science."



Dr. Charles Yeager, assistant professor of geography, contributed to a chapter in the book *The Geography of Beer*. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



Kenzo van Baal, senior biochemistry major, and other students in Dr. Gerald Schlink's genetics class gave presentations after evaluating gene strands.

— From staff reports

School institutes new assessment

Procedure charts student progress

During the spring semester, all instructors teaching business communication classes in the Robert W. Plaster School of Business used the same steps to complete a formative assessment of their students.

It was a way to not only chart the progress

students are making, but to determine how to help them succeed in the classroom.

Last year, Dr. Beverly Block, professor of business, and Michelle Dawson, instructor of management, developed the metric used to conduct the assessment. They believe it has the potential to benefit other schools, which are going through the accreditation process.

In March, Block and Dawson attended the Association for Business Communication Conference in

Dallas, Texas, to present a paper they collaborated on: "Using the Business Communication Course to Evaluate Written and Oral Communication in

Formative Assessment."

"Part of the accreditation process is that we do assessments, and there are two types we have to look at," said Block. "One is formative, the other is summative. Michelle and I were given the duty to do the formative assessment piece."

The formative assessment required them to develop a process to see where business communication students are about halfway through the course. They created a three-point scale for instructors to use to grade their students on a written and oral communication assignment.

"While students get feedback on all of their assignments, they get very specific feedback on this one," said Dawson.

"The rubric that Beverly and I developed analyzes three different areas of their perfor-

mance — grammar and mechanics, appropriate style and format.

"For the oral communication formative assessment, we have them do a webcam mock interview. We then use the rubric to provide very specific feedback similar to the writing piece."

Block and Dawson plan to collaborate on a follow-up paper that examines the results of their formative assessment process.

Agee named outstanding instructor

Dr. Terri Agee, professor of business law, received the Outstanding University Experience Instructor award for 2013.

University Experience is a freshman-level course at Southern.

The course helps acclimate students to university life.

"Dr. Agee helped make my transition into college very easy. She is so understanding and supportive," said Bria Lamica, a freshman premed biology major.

"If anybody needs something, she is the first person to volunteer to help. She makes me proud that I chose MSSU. I am so honored to have had her as a professor."

School of Business joins SAP Alliance

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business has joined the SAP University Alliance, which is integrated into the engineering, computing and business programs.

"SAP is a world information company headquartered out of Germany," said Dr. Blake Nielson, instructor of management. "They have more than 110,000 customers worldwide and are the market leader in enterprise application software."

Nielson said the program allows students to have hands-on experience with the same software used all around the world by the information company.

"If we're talking about supply chains and how units moved through them, our students can access SAP and see how units are moving from process to process," he said.

"I was at a conference in Texas and talked to faculty members who have seen students getting job placement based on their SAP experience. As long as they have some background in it, it can put them ahead of their peers."

— From staff reports



Dr. Beverly Block (left), professor of business, and Michelle Dawson, instructor of management, developed a way to conduct a formative assessment for business communication classes last year.

— Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



Terri Agee

Professor of business law
Missouri Southern State University

School expands course offerings

Program helps pros obtain bachelor's

The Missouri Southern School of Health Sciences is offering a retro credit program for students who have obtained an associate degree in dental hygiene, radiology, paramedic, respiratory therapy or nursing. It allows these students to further their professional careers by completing a bachelor's degree. The program is available to transfer students to assist in meeting the requirements for a bachelor's degree or for alumni who graduated prior to upper division courses being a part of their curriculum. To qualify for the program, health science and nursing majors must have graduated from an accredited associate degree program, passed a national written board examination and be licensed to practice.

The program will apply up to 31 upper-division credit hours depending on the discipline. Courses are available online, allowing practicing clinicians to complete their bachelor's at their own pace from anywhere in the world.

MSSU offers CPR, other certifications

Through a partnership with CoxHealth in Springfield, Missouri, Southern serves as a training site for the American Heart Association.

"As a training site we can process all of the cards and paperwork and offer training a lot cheaper than if we were having to pay someone else to come in," said Brett Peine, EMS department chair.

Health profession students can obtain certification in CPR, Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. It's a credential employers like to see or often require new hires to have, said Peine.

"These classes can run \$250 to \$400 for students to get on their own," he said. "Now, it's part of their tuition."

The MSSU Training Center is also offering training throughout the community, having contracted through school districts and dental offices.

Course helps EMTs avoid attacks

Beginning this fall, the paramedic program will offer a required course titled Escaping Violent Encounters.

"There was a study done by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians that said 52 percent of EMS workers have reported being attacked on the job," said Brett Peine, EMS department chair. "And that's just the people who report it. The actual number is much higher."

Due to calls that have EMS workers on the scene during domestic disputes or situations involving people under the influence of alcohol or drugs, health care workers need to have the tools for them to properly respond to those situations, he said.

The comprehensive course will cover mental preparation, physical skills, tactics, techniques and what to expect if required to testify in court.

"Everything about the program is defensive and nonaggressive," said Peine.

Students excel at annual Sputum Bowl

Three teams of four students represented Southern at the 2014 Sputum Bowl held April 22-25 at the annual Missouri Society for Respiratory Care state conference in Osage Beach, Missouri. The team of Kelsey Reading, Megan Perry, Kayla Smith and Jamie McCracken took first place. The team moves on to compete nationally during the American Association for Respiratory Care's International Congress in December in Las Vegas. The academic competition tests students' knowledge in anatomy and physiology, chemistry and physics, diagnostics and neonatal pediatrics, said Glenda Pippin, director of the respiratory therapy program.

A team from Southern won the national competition in 2007 in Orlando, Florida. Last year, a team narrowly missed making it to the final round at the competition in Anaheim, California.

"Students picked their own teams, and they basically came in and practiced on their own time," Pippin said. "They look at the trophy case and know that it's an honor to represent their class and their school at this competition."

— From staff reports



EMS department chair Brett Peine says the Escaping Violent Encounters course will be required for all students going through the paramedic program.

— Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



Kayla Smith, respiratory and health science major, was an MSSU team member at the Missouri Society for Respiratory Care's Sputum Bowl.



Melanie Gaudette and Jimmy Adams, '11, of the Joplin Globe attended the MoSo Morning in October. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



Dr. Alan Marble, Missouri Southern interim president, visits with Elizabeth Cook, '11; Alaina Clayton; and Liz Scheurich, '04 at the Joplin Globe in October.

MoSo MORNINGS

Alumni Association members share java and Lion pride.

Each semester the Missouri Southern Alumni Association shows its appreciation to area businesses that have a practice of hiring graduates.

Lee Elliff Pound, '86, director, and others from the Alumni Association and Southern arrive at the businesses with doughnuts and coffee.

They take the opportunity to reconnect with alumni who are employed by

the organization and to let management know they are appreciated.

"MoSo Mornings are events where the Alumni Association goes out into the community to visit with our alumni. We are pleased to be able to visit and find out what's going on in the lives of our alumni," said Elliff Pound.

One MoSo Morning event was held in October 2013 at the *Joplin Globe*. Elliff

Pound and Meagan Adams, '08, alumni coordinator, arrived at 10 a.m. with Starbucks coffee and doughnuts.

"We consider Missouri Southern State University to be a great source for recruitment in many different majors," said Carol Stark, editor of the *Joplin Globe*.

Alumni Association plans for future MoSo Mornings are ongoing.

— Robin Fjelstad, '15

Lion STRONG

Gipsons push other alumni to Pay It Forward.

At the Saturday reception for coach Robert Corn, '78, Bill Gipson, '85, stopped me in the front lobby of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center.

"Lee, Tracy and I want to give an alumni membership for a graduate. Can we do that?"

A question like this is an alumni director's dream!

Bill explained that he and his wife, Tracy, '79 and '93, had been talking about a gift like this for quite a while. This gift came on the heels of their generous donation to support the Full Court Press project and was very unexpected.

After we discussed the gift, we have now put together a new program called Pay It Forward. This project allows anyone to make a tax-deductible gift in the amount of \$250 per donated membership that is then given to a graduating senior.

Missouri Southern's grads visit the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center the semester of their graduation for an event called Grad Expo. This day provides our seniors with the one-stop-shop opportunity to meet with the registrar's office, check on their financial aid responsibilities, learn about graduate studies, obtain information from Career Services, learn about the Lionbacker program, order class rings and graduation announcements and pick up their cap and gown. Graduates who attend will then be put into the drawing for the Pay It Forward alumni membership.

Alumni memberships have many benefits that include special invitations to events, *Crossroads* magazine subscriptions, free use of the MSSU pool and racquetball courts, the opportunity to



Tracy, '79 and '93, and Bill, '85, Gipson (right) join their daughter Sarah Camp and nephew Donovan Edwards on the campus Oval last fall. The Gipsons funded the lion statue and this spring started Pay It Forward to help recent graduates become Alumni Association members. — Photo by Curtis Almeter, '13

For information about Pay It Forward, please contact the Alumni office at 417-659-LION.

purchase a membership to the Beimdiek Rec Center, use of Spiva Library and Career Services, and discounts for members only. It also helps keep our alumni connected to the university for life.

Proceeds from memberships help offset expenses for special events and projects, the Outstanding Alumni and Outstanding Graduate awards, and help pay for the seven scholarships the Alumni Association gives each year to legacies.

Pay It Forward is a great way to give back to your alma mater, make a tax-deductible gift and most importantly, impact the life of a recent graduate. Donors can even direct the area of degree recipient.

My husband and I were so inspired by Bill and Tracy's continued giving to

MSSU and of this great idea that we have also decided to "pay it forward" and sponsor two memberships a year, as well. I hope that you will follow the lead of Bill and Tracy and consider Pay It Forward. As I noted in our last magazine issue, supporting your alma mater can be in the ways of time, talent and treasure.

If the membership isn't an option of support, perhaps volunteering your time or talents are, and we certainly look forward to hearing from you in those ways, as well.

As alumni, we have the opportunity to continue to strengthen our alma mater and carry on support for those future alumni in a variety of ways.

Be creative. Bill and Tracy were! **C**

— Lee Elliff Pound, '86, Director,
Missouri Southern Alumni Association

CLASSNOTES

1970s

Roger Marsh, '78, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his service from 1978-81. He is director of campus mail services at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri.

1980s

JoAnn Freeborn, '87, published a book presenting her holistic approach to care giving. That approach is based on the four

letters in the word care: communication, assistance, respect and empowerment. The title is *How to Care and Why?*

Duane, '86, and **Holly**, '85, (**McMechan**) **Hukill** have owned Joplin Floor Designs for 20 years. They have three children, and two are attending Missouri Southern.

2000s

Esdra Lamy, '00, works as director of domestic distribution for Warner Bros Entertainment in Burbank, California.
Rachel (Mastin) Stanley, '05, was

promoted to the Honors Program assistant director at Missouri Southern.

Aaron Deslatte, '07, was named one of the best state capitol reporters in America by the Washington Post's GovBeat blog. He covers statewide politics and the Florida legislature for the *Orlando Sentinel*.

2010s

Ivy Love, '10, is a lecturer in French at Washington University in St. Louis.

— Reports from MSSU Alumni Association office

FUTURELIONS

Matthew and Rachel (Mastin) Stanley, '05, welcomed Elizabeth Kay on September 18, 2013.
Chance and Meagan (Wirth) Adams, '08, welcomed Cooper Ray on December 15, 2013.

LIONLOVE

Caleb and Meagan (Terry) Spangler, '13, were married on December 21, 2013.



Have something you want to share with your fellow alumni? Send us your information.

Missouri Southern Alumni Association
3950 East Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801
or via email, AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu

find us on facebook!

INMEMORIAM

JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

Jim R. Gaskill
September 29, 2013
Jerry L. Buchanan
October 24, 2013
Virginia F. Harrison
October 29, 2013
Michael L. Carey
November 14, 2013
Patricia R. Bishop
December 22, 2013
Charlene (Dale) Nolan
December 27, 2013
Edith Mayes
December 30, 2013
Myra J. Wimer
January 9, 2014
Michael M. Hopkins
January 28, 2014
James W. Thomas
January 30, 2014

John E. Wise
February 7, 2014
Dorothy M. Wise Edds
February 17, 2014

MISSOURI SOUTHERN

Leslie C. Deverick
December 10, 2013
Billy J. Williams
December 22, 2013
Rose Ann Bacon
January 3, 2014
James W. Cole, Jr.
January 4, 2014
Kimberly D. (Hall) Cox
January 10, 2014
Cathleen S. Kyler
January 22, 2014
Eloise J. Bearden
February 4, 2014

Tracy K. Prigg
February 12, 2014

1960s
Charles S. Carpenter, '69
January 12, 2014

1970s
Patricia G. Lawson, '72
November 28, 2013
Michael M. (Matt) Emmert, '76
January 24, 2014

1990s
Jeffery E. Slama, '90
October 16, 2013
Jeannette M. (Shank) Williams, '93
December 29, 2013

Missouri Southern remembers faculty and friends

FRIENDS OF SOUTHERN

Wanda Sue Billingsly, 89, died November 12, 2013, in Joplin, Missouri. Sue was born October 4, 1924, in Sheldon, Missouri, to Gladys (Darling) and Ray McGehee. She graduated from Sheldon

High School and attended Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University) in Springfield, Missouri, where she met Leon Billingsly, the love of her life. They were married in 1942. She attended and graduated from

Pittsburg State University in Kansas. She taught school in Lamar, Golden City, Pittsburg and Joplin. She graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Master of Education. In addition to a 20-year teaching career, Sue was the wife of the

first president of Missouri Southern State University (Missouri Southern College at the time), and after his death, served as the first Missouri Southern Foundation director from 1979-99. She was a member of many organizations including PEO, Delta Gamma Fraternity, MSSC Faculty Wives, American Association of University Women, and Tri State Trucking Board of Directors. She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Jerold McGehee; and her husband. She is survived by her daughter, Connie Billingsly Godwin; sister-in-law, Hazel Magers; seven nieces; four nephews; and many great-nieces and nephews.

Bernice Cantrell Higgins, 90, of Joplin, died December 4, 2013, in Joplin, Missouri. Born July 13, 1923, in Joplin, she was the only child of the late Glenn and Neva Dotson Cantrell and was a lifelong Joplin resident. A 1941 graduate of Joplin Senior High School, she worked 10 years as a secretary for both North Joplin Junior High School and South Joplin Junior High School. She was a member of First Community Church, Junior Emerson Study Club and Bible Study Fellowship. She enjoyed playing golf with friends at both Schifferdecker and Twin Hills. While she never called attention to it, she was also an accomplished oil painting artist. On January 2, 1942, she married Robert A. Higgins in Columbus, Kansas. He survives. Additional survivors include two sons, Robert Higgins and wife, Lindy Beauregard; Dick Higgins and wife, Diane; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Roy J. Deem, 73, died January 23, 2014, in Joplin, Missouri. Born January 21, 1941, in Joplin, he was the son of Roy S. Deem and Mary Pauline Johnson Deem West and lived in Joplin and Carl Junction in his lifetime. A 1958 graduate of Joplin High School, he received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Kansas University in 1962, where he was a member of Delta Chi Fraternity. He served in the U.S. Army and Missouri National Guard. Following his discharge from the service, he worked for Empire District. In 1968, he and his wife opened Deems Grocery on Main Street in Carl Junction and in 1970 moved to its Pennell Street location. They owned and operated the grocery until 1984 and reopened

it from 2003-09. Since 1984, he was a real estate agent and broker. Roy was a former member of Joplin Jaycees, Rotary Club of Webb City and Carl Junction, Carl Junction Lions Club and Joplin Elks Lodge No. 501. He was a 15-year board member for Carl Junction Schools and served a term as president. He coached and served on the board of Carl Junction Youth Athletics, was a board member of Carl Junction Athletics Booster Club and served on the Steering Committee for MSSU Lionbackers. He was a member of the Carl Junction Chamber of Commerce. On October 27, 1964, he married Susan O. Stanley in Joplin. She survives. Additional survivors include three sons, Clay Deem, Chris Deem and wife, Rachel; Brian Deem and wife, Marilyn; a sister, Nancy Wise; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Roy was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather Charles Cecil West, and brother Charles Roger West.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Derek Moore died November 1, 2013, in Joplin, Missouri. Derek was born July 11, 1976, in Newton, Iowa, to Darcy Moore-Kane and Garry Moore. In 1995, he graduated from Newton High. After high school, Derek attended Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls and Morningside College in Sioux City, where he played football. After earning his undergraduate degree from Morningside, Derek obtained a master's from St. Cloud State in Minnesota where he was a graduate assistant for the football team. Derek coached collegiate and high school football for 14 years, including Missouri Southern in 2013. Derek was passionate for teaching men not just about football but about how to be a better student and man off the field. The only thing Derek loved more than being a football coach was being a father to his son, Elijah Moore. Derek is preceded in death by his grandparents and aunt. He is survived by his son; his mother; his father; his brother; his grandmother; and two nieces.

Charles David Greninger, 76, of Joplin, Missouri, died January 17, 2014. Born March 29, 1937, in Joplin, he was the son of William Al Greninger and Ethel Reisch Greninger and lived in Joplin all of his

life. He worked many years for the former Waterman's Florist and then 20 years as a custodian for Missouri Southern State University. He served in the peacetime U.S. Army. Survivors include four siblings, Eleanor Proctor, John Greninger and wife, Kathy; Cora (Tillie) Taylor; Harry Greninger; and many nieces and nephews. His parents and five siblings preceded him in death.

Larry Wayne Goode, of Joplin, Missouri, died January 31, 2014. He was born April 8, 1942, in Carthage, Missouri. He attended Webb City High School and graduated from Pittsburg State University with a master's in business administration. He taught at Webb City High School prior to joining the staff at Missouri Southern State University. He taught for the next 35 years in the school of business administration. Larry's passion was teaching. He once said, "If I had my way, every morning of my life I'd be in the class at eight o'clock waiting for the kids because that's the only thing I really liked to do." He received the Outstanding Teacher Award in 1986 and the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998. He is survived by his wife, Angie; five children, Kari Willis and husband, Mark; Amy Walker; Daron Goode and wife, Lisa; stepson Chris Stephens and wife, Connie; stepdaughter Rachel Berry and husband, Jason; his 15 grandchildren; and a sister and brother.

Garry J. Hess, 76, died February 8, 2014. He was born on May 14, 1937, in Pratt, Kansas, to Elmer and Mary Anna Hess. He is survived by his wife, Teresa (Terry); sister Galene Swafford; four nieces and nephews; and five cousins. After high school, Garry received a Bachelor of Arts from Fort Hays University in Kansas and taught high school classes in art in Kansas for nine years and obtained a Master of Arts in jewelry design and metalsmithing at Kansas State College (currently Pittsburg State University). He and his wife were married on December 27, 1972. Garry set up the jewelry area in the Missouri Southern Art Department. He retired in 2002. Garry participated in hunting and conservation organizations, including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, where he was active for more than 20 years.

— In memoriam current as of March 1, 2014

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Honors Program

KGCS Anniversary

International Media Seminar



crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication, Spring 2014